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Urban District of Kidsgrove.

Medical Officer's Report
For the Year 1937.

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Urban District of Kidsgrove.

Medical Officer's Report for the year 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kidsgrove
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1937.

A. 1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 4,095 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1937, 14,620.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the Rate Books: 3,838.

Rateable Value: £47,292.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £167.

The Area is divided into three Wards:

The Kidsgrove Ward.

The Newchapel Ward.

The Talke Ward.

The district is wholly an industrial one, and an industrial residential area for the Potteries. As manufacture and coal mining in the area are practically extinct, there is much unemployment. The attached Schedule shows the extent of unemployment in the district.

Unemployment in 1937.

	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporary Suspended.		
	Males 16-64	Females 16-64	Total	Males 16-64	Females 16-64	Total
January	1171	97	1268	110	194	304
February	1184	87	1271	76	141	217
March	1159	74	1233	81	133	214
April	1087	87	1174	50	72	122
May	1010	66	1076	62	96	158
June	962	71	1033	57	127	184
July	964	70	1034	239	166	405
August	963	60	1023	180	158	338
September	961	66	1027	87	175	262
October	936	111	1047	82	176	258
November	978	109	1087	104	172	276
December	983	120	1103	336	292	628

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Total 215.

Males 109. Females 106.

Illegitimate: Total 3. Males 1. Females 2.

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 14.6.

Stillbirths: Total 11. Males 6. Females 5.

Rate per 1000 total (live and stillbirths): 48.6.

Deaths: Total 143. Males 81 Females 62.

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 9.7.

This total includes the following transferable deaths from outside the area: Total 33. Males 24. Females 9.

Deaths from puerperal causes: 0.

Deaths of infants under one year: Total 10.

Males 5. Females 5.

Death Rate of infants per 1000 live births: 46.5.

Deaths from Measles: 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough: 3.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): 0.

There has been no specially noteworthy cause of sickness during the year, (except a widespread epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year) and no special conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

B. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority:*—

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time official. He has the M.D. Degree, and is engaged in private practice locally (Alsager).

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time official. He has the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

2. *(a) Laboratory Facilities:*—Laboratory arrangements for the examination of sporum, swabs, water, milk and foodstuffs are undertaken by the County Laboratory at Stafford.

(b) Ambulance Facilities: For infectious cases, a motor ambulance is kept at Bradwell Isolation Hospital, and can be summoned by telephone.

For non-infectious cases and accidents, an ambulance must be borrowed from neighbouring authorities in urgent cases.

3. *Nursing in the Home:*—There is a local Nursing Association affiliated with the County Association, which is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

Three Health Visitors reside and work in the area, one in each Ward.

They look after expectant and nursing mothers and infants and take on the supervision of any case under these heads or any special case, when required to do so by the Medical Officer.

4. *Clinics and Treatment Centres:*—Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held at Kids Grove, Harriseahead and Talke. These Clinics are managed by the Medical and Nursing Staff of the County Council. School Clinics are held regularly by the School Medical Officer of the County Council.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

There are no Artificial Light Clinics or Day Nurseries. A Nursery School is in the process of formation and will be opened during 1938.

Veneral cases can obtain treatment at the North Staffs Royal Infirmary, or at the Clinic of the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

5. *Hospitals—Fever.* Infectious cases are sent to Bradwell Isolation Hospital. *Smallpox.*—Smallpox cases may be sent to Baginbun Fever Hospital (North Staffs Joint Hospital Board).

The Council contributes to the maintenance of the Bradwell Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Tuberculosis are provided with sanatorium facilities by the Joint Committee of the County Council, Wolverhampton, and Dudley County Boroughs.

Maternity.—There is no Maternity Hospital for the district. Where admission to a hospital is imperative, patients will be received by the North Staffs Royal Infirmary, or by the Public Assistance Institutions at Newcastle or Keele Road.

The County Council have arrangements with the Mrs. Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton, for dealing with unmarried prospective mothers, who can be received there for their confinement.

Children.—The North Staffs Royal Infirmary.

Orthopædic.—The Cripples' Hospital, Hartshill, or the above.

The North Staffs Royal Infirmary is available for all forms of treatment, medical and surgical. It is contributed to by voluntary contributions from the area.

None of these hospitals are situated within the area.

6. *Legislation in force in the Area*.—As in previous reports.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. *Water*.—The Kidsgrove Ward is supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. The water is of good quality and the supply is fully maintained throughout the year.

The Newchapel Ward.—The water supply here is augmented by connecting up to the mains of the Biddulph U.D.C., and obtaining water in bulk from that Authority. The water from this source supplies Long Lane, Stadmoreslow, Newchapel and Whitehill. The remaining parts of the Ward are supplied by the Council's own Water Works at Mow Cop. This water is obtained from wells 100 ft. deep and is pumped into a service reservoir high up on Mow Cop. The average daily yield during the year was 20,000 gallons, and the average daily consumption was 12.5 gallons per head of the population.

The Talke Ward.—The water supply here is purchased by bulk from the Newcastle R.D.C. and is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. A constant supply is maintained throughout the district. The average daily consumption is 13.5 gallons per head of the population. New bore-holes are being sunk by the Newcastle R.D.C. to augment the supply.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—The condition of these is under the direct control of the County Council. No action in regard to them was taken by the Urban Council.

3. *Drainage and Sewerage*:

Kidsgrove Ward.—The sewage disposal works at Red Bull, Lawton, continue to work efficiently and a good effluent is obtained.

Newchapel Ward.—The extensions at the Rookery Outfall Works have been completed and the necessary new sewers constructed.

Good progress has been made with the conversions from the conservancy to the water-carriage system.

Talke Ward.—The Scheme submitted to the Ministry of Health in connection with the Sewerage and Outfall Works for this Ward has been approved and the necessary works commenced. It is now in progress.

4. *Public Cleansing:*

Kidsgrove Ward.—All the scavenging is done by the Council's workmen, under a system of direct labour. The house refuse throughout the district is collected every week and removed to a tip just outside the town. The Council have a covered motor vehicle for the conveyance of house refuse and sanitary bins are in general use. There are no ash-pits.

Trade refuse from fish dealers is removed in specially provided containers and is taken to the fish and bone-meal works in the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

Newchapel Ward.—In this Ward arrangements have been made during the year for the whole of the scavenging to be carried out by the Council's workmen, and none of the work is now done under contract. The house refuse is collected every week and removed to tips at a considerable distance from any dwellings. Two men are employed in the removal of night-soil from a number of dwellings that cannot be connected to the Council's sewerage system.

Talke Ward.—In this Ward, the scavenging is done by the Council's workmen under a system of direct labour. The house refuse is collected every week and removed in the Council's covered motor vehicle to tips at a considerable distance from any dwellings. In the removal of night soil, two men are regularly employed and the refuse is deposited and treated on land at Talke Hurst, Butt Lane.

5. *Closest Accommodation*—There are now 3,838 houses in the Urban District, and in connection with these, there are 2,513 fresh and waste water closets; 27 have movable receptacles; 1,298 have fixed receptacles, brick privy cesspools and earthenware pans.

There have been 45 conversions in the Newchapel Ward during the year and 29 in the Talke Ward. No waste water closets are now being fixed.

6. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area:*

(a) Number and nature of the Inspections made during the year: 557. Slaughter houses, 87. Dairies and Cowsheds, 152. Bakehouses, 42. Houses (Infectious Diseases) 48. Disinfections, 33. Nuisances, 195.

(b) Notices served:—Statutory, 12; Informal, 41. Total 53. Smoke Abatement.—No action was taken or necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations :—

Workshops and Workplaces—Blacksmiths, 2; Bakers, 9; Cabinetmakers, 1; Dresomakers, 3; Fustian Works, 2. Milliners, 2; Plumbers, 9; Shoemakers, 5; Quarry Works, 4; Wheel-wrights, 2; Concrete Flag Works, 2. Total number of Workshops on the Register, 41.

Shops Act 1934.—Attention has been drawn to the inadequate provision of separate sanitary conveniences in connection with 2 lock-up shops and to the insufficient means of ventilation in the conveniences attached to 2 shops.

Schools.—With one exception all the public elementary schools in the district now have an adequate range of latrines and water flushed closets, also a sufficient and satisfactory water supply.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools situated in the Area.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—No action was taken or necessary for the eradication of bed-bugs.

D. Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:

79 Houses and 1 Bungalow, Total, 80.

I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- | | | | |
|---------|---|--|--------|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .. | 257 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | .. 298 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | .. .. | 33 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | .. 41 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | .. .. . | 9 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | .. | 53 |

II—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 23

III—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| (a) | Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 16, of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | 12 |

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	35
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—	
(a) By owners	35
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders	20
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	0
Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.—	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	105
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	105
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	706
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	57
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	0

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The purity of the milk produced within the area or brought for sale has been satisfactory as have also the arrangements for its distribution. Frequent inspection of the Diaries and Cowsheds were made by the Sanitary Inspector and efforts have been to raise the standard of cleanliness amongst cow-keepers and to secure improved lighting, ventilation and drainage of cowsheds.

No licenses for the sale of milk under special designations were issued by your Council, and in no case has the registration of any milk retailer been refused or revoked.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*—The inspection of meat at the time of slaughter and the inspection of stalls, shops and vehicles has received the close attention of the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 7 registered slaughter-houses in the district and no public slaughter house.

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*—Samples are taken periodically by Inspectors of the County Council.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—

This is undertaken by the Analyst at Stafford, appointed by the County Council.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, etc., including Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	No particulars recorded				
Number inspected	150	—	30	500	150
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	0	0	0	0	0

F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There were 106 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis, distributed as follows:—

Disease	Kidsgrove Ward	Newchap'l Ward	Talke Ward	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	8	8	21
Diphtheria	5	3	2	10
Pneumonia	16	5	2	23
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8	2	2	12
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	6	1	7	14
Erysipelas	10	3	4	17
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	2	2
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	3	0	3	6
Polio-myelitis	1	—	—	1

Grand Total, 106

Cases removed to Bradwell Sanatorium during the year 1937.

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
January	...	3	1
February	...	3	0
March	...	1	3
April	...	3	0
May	...	2	1
June	...	2	2
July	...	0	1
August	...	2	1
September	...	1	0
October	...	0	0
November	...	2	0
December	...	2	1
31 Removals.		21	10

TUBERCULOSIS.*New Cases and Mortality during 1937.*

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	..	1	1	...	...	...	...
5—15	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...
15—25	1	1	6	0	1	...	...	..
25—35	1	2	0	2	...	...	...	...
35—45	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	...
45—55	2	0	0	0	...	1	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	7	5	9	5	3	3	2	

Apart from a widespread epidemic of Influenza at the beginning of the year, there has been **NO EPIDEMIC OF INFECTIOUS-DISEASE.** The number of sporadic cases continue to be very few and Hospital accommodation has been quite sufficient for them.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Local Authority, when required by the Medical Officer of Health.

Swabs have been taken, when occasion arises, from unhealthy throats by the School Medical Officer. The pathological findings of these swabs are at once reported, so that immediate steps may be taken to investigate the circumstances and isolate possible cases.

A serum syringe and diphtheria anti-toxin are provided and kept at the Police Station, Kids Grove, for the emergency use of practitioners.

THE PREVALENCE OF CANCER is not abnormal.

Number of deaths from it: 13 Males, 7 Females. Total 20.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176, of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925; (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

I am, yours faithfully,

HENRY P. HARPUR, M.D.,

July 1st, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health.

